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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

C762

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Cop. 2

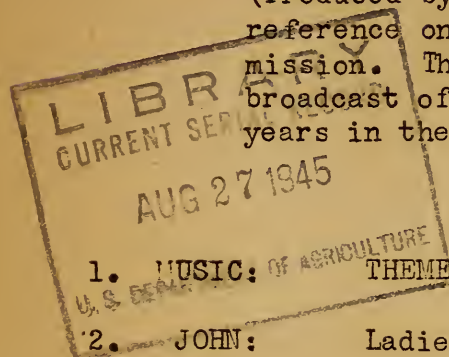
NETWORK: NBC

DATE: April 14, 1945

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1. MUSIC: OF AGRICULTURE THEME...FADE AND HOLD UNDER.

2. JOHN: Ladies and Gentlemen, the War Food Administration presents today's broadcast of CONSUMER TIME in tribute to the late President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

3. MUSIC: UP AND FADE UNDER...THEN OUT.

4. JOHN: This is the story of what a great man, and a great president, did for the agriculture of America.

It is a story of indomitable courage...a courage which brought about agriculture's recovery from a depression, which, for the farmers of this country, had been steadily growing worse long before the crash of 1929.

5. CONNELL: When Franklin Roosevelt took office as President of the United States, the desperate plight of the farmers was not merely a part of the depression. Agriculture, as a means of livelihood, had been on the decline for years.

6. FREYMAN: Farm prices had slumped...but the cost of living remained high. Farm taxes and interest were high, too...and yet America's markets were /glutted with enormous food surpluses.

7. CONNELL: The new President of the United States...ten days after he had proclaimed a bank holiday throughout the nation, turned to face the problem of the nation's farmers, and he faced it with strong words.

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DATE 11-17-00 BY 1043

REF ID: A66080

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8. JOHN: On March 16, 1933, the President announced to the Congress...that he had a plan of definite, constructive importance to agricultural recovery. He said: "Deep study and the joint counsel of many points of view have produced a measure which offers great promise of good results. I tell you frankly that it is a new and untrod path, but I tell you with equal frankness that an unprecedented condition calls for the trial of new means to rescue agriculture."
9. MUSIC: SHORT BRIDGE AND FADE DOWN AND OUT.
10. FREYMAN: "A new means to rescue agriculture". The President had outlined those means in a campaign address he made at Topeka, Kansas, in September 1932. He had said then, that he knew there was no single remedy which would bring immediate prosperity to the farmers.
11. JOHN: He knew this personally and he gave four reasons why: "First, I have lived on a farm in the state of New York for fifty years. Second, I have run a farm in the state of Georgia for eight years, and run it without profit. Third, ever since I went into public life, I have made it a point to travel over this country and in so doing I have maintained what I think modesty would permit me to ^{is} say/in a genuine and practical interest in the farm problems of the various parts of this country at first hand. And finally, as Governor of the state of New York the farm products of which rank fifth or sixth among all the forty-eight states of the Union, I have in four years devoted myself to building a farm program of which the people of my state, regardless of party, have some reason to be proud."
12. MUSIC: UP AND SHORT BRIDGE, FADE DOWN.
13. FREYMAN: Thus spoke Franklin Roosevelt in 1932. It was a campaign address, in which he made promises...promises which were faithfully kept after he became President...beliefs which he adhered to throughout the long years of his presidency. He said then, in that famous speech at Topeka.

14. JOHN: "I have unbounded faith in a restored and rehabilitated agriculture."
15. FREYMAN: And the President knew...and understood agriculture. He knew and understood the problems of the farmer. It was because of this sympathy...and understanding that he proposed the broad farm program...including the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.
16. CONNELL: It was a program which he called the most drastic and far-reaching farm legislation ever proposed in time of peace.
17. FREYMAN: But the time for drastic action had come. Most of the thirty-one million farm people in the U.S.A. and the millions who depended on them for livelihood...didn't have money to buy industrial products. So, millions of industrial workers were being forced out of employment.
18. CONNELL: More and more farmers were going bankrupt. Bank failures were increasing in rural communities. Farms were being foreclosed by the thousands.
19. MUSIC: LOW UNDER...HOLD AND FADE OUT.
20. FREYMAN: The Farm Bill was passed on May 10, 1933, and signed by the President on May 12, with these words:
21. JOHN: "I have just signed the Farm Relief Bill, which includes the refinancing of farm debts. The Act extends relief not only to farmer borrowers, but to mortgage creditors as well. It is to the interest of all the people of the United States that the benefits of this Act should be extended to all who are in need of them and that none should be deprived of them through ignorance or precipitate action."
22. CONNELL: In this statement, the President also urged mortgage creditors to delay foreclosures on farms...until farmers had had the opportunity to take advantage of the Farm Relief Act.

23. MUSIC: UP FOR BRIDGE...FADE OUT UNDER.

24. FREYMAN: And so the Agricultural Adjustment Act was born.

25. CONNELL: That was May. In December of that year, there was already noticeable improvement in the country's agriculture. The President was glad to be able to say:

26. JOHN: "The maladjustment between supply and demand has been years in the making, and...it cannot be corrected overnight. Nevertheless, in a few short months the whole complexion of the agricultural outlook has been changed. Money is getting into the hands of the people who need it. This money is paying bills; it is putting men back to work in the cities producing the things that farmers buy, and enabling these men in turn to buy things that farmers produce."

27. MUSIC: TRIUMPHANT BRIDGE:

28. FREYMAN: And was it really working? Did the farmers of America actually find that slowly, steadily, the country's agriculture was coming out of its slump?

29. CONNELL: Two years later, there were some moves made to alter and change the Administration's farm programs. Plans were afoot in some quarters...that would seriously hamper agricultural adjustment programs.

30. FREYMAN: These plans reached the ears of the farmers...and little by little the unrest grew. The farmers were stirred, and they gathered together...in small groups...and the groups grew into large ones...

31. CONNELL: Because they knew that the Administration's plan was good, and that it was sound.

And because the farmers would not hear of a change, and also because they wanted to show a deep appreciation for the great good which their President had brought about...they did a strange thing.

32. MUSIC: FAINT UNDER FOLLOWING.
33. FREYMAN: Yes, a strange...and unprecedented thing. The farmers marched on on Washington. They marched by the twos and the threes, by the hundreds, and by the thousands. This was in May of 1935.
34. CONNELL: Arrived in Washington they converged, quietly and respectfully, on the White House lawn.
35. MUSIC: OUT.
36. FREYMAN: They stood there on the great sweeping south lawn of the White House...over five-thousand of them...to show their thanks with touching simplicity, to the man who had done so much for agriculture in America.
37. CONNELL: And Franklin Roosevelt came out and spoke to them. The President was in great spirits and full of fun. He spoke extemporaneously.
38. JOHN: "I am glad to welcome you to Washington. We can think of this occasion as a kind of surprise birthday party because it was exactly two years and two days ago that the Agricultural Adjustment Act became a law. After that took place, and in record time, you and thousands of other farmers took hold. You set up the machinery to control your affairs and you put the new law to work." Then the President went on to say: "It is because what you stand for is so just and so wholly reasonable that no one today has had the temerity to question the motives of this grand 'march on Washington'. It is a good omen for Government, for business, for bankers, and for the city dwellers that the nation's farmers are becoming articulate and that they know whereof they speak."
39. MUSIC: FAINTLY BEHIND.
40. FREYMAN: And in conclusion...the President told his audience of over 5000 farmers standing silently there on the White House lawn...

41. JOHN: "We haven't quite got the engine tuned up yet, but it is a mighty fine engine. I think after it has run a total of about a thousand miles it will be the best engine we have ever had.
- I want to thank you for your patience with us, your Government.
- I want to pledge to you not only our wholehearted cooperation as you go forward, but our continued deep interest in a problem that is not just a farmer's problem, because, as I have said before your prosperity is felt in every city home, in every bank and in every industry in the land."
42. MUSIC: UP STRONG FOR BRIDGE AND OUT.
43. FREYMAN: Yes, the President knew and understood the farmers of America.
- The country was swinging back to normal. And Franklin Roosevelt went deeper into the problems of the land. He had always been interested in conservation of the soil.
44. CONNELL: It was his administration which formed the Civilian Conservation Corps which not only gave employment to hundreds of thousands of men...but also accomplished inestimable good in the parks and forests.
45. FREYMAN: And the President had frequently deplored the lack of knowledge... of understanding...of the importance of conservation of America's natural resources. The cutting of our last stand of virgin timber ...of the increasing floods; the millions of acres of our top soils, which were washing away. The dangers of one-crop farming...of the depletion of minerals.
46. CONNELL: "We have been told", said the President "of all the evils that we have brought upon ourselves today, and the even greater evils that will attend our children unless we act."

47. JOHN: And so in April of 1935...the Soil Erosion Act was passed. An Act establishing the Soil Conservation Service, which with the Triple A, works to preserve our natural resources...to prevent the erosion of the soil.
48. FREYMAN: For the farms of this country had been badly over-worked...drained by over-production.
49. CONNELL: The soil conservation program was not only to see that people eat well today...but that people a hundred years from now will enjoy abundant harvests.
50. FREYMAN: Soil conservation...a program which looks ahead...which influences the lives of generations of Americans to come...
Another great contribution to the agriculture of our country.
51. CONNELL: And there was more legislation passed during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt...for the benefit of America's agriculture, and America's farmers.
52. FREYMAN: In February of 1938, the Federal Crop Insurance Act was passed, and authorized insurance to farmers against loss of certain crops.
53. CONNELL: One of the President's last official acts...only a month ago...was to submit to the Congress an estimate for funds necessary to carry out the newly reinstated and strengthened crop insurance program.
54. FREYMAN: Then there is the farm security program...designed especially to help out the low-income farmer.
55. CONNELL: Yes, as the years have gone by...conditions in the country have changed...the market conditions...the weather even...there have been many changes. But Franklin Roosevelt and his Administration...changed correspondingly the provisions of the farm program...to keep it up to date. Said the President in a radio address in 1940:

56. JOHN: "The farm program is a splendid example of what 6,000,000 American families can do when they have the will and the leadership to do it. The farmers have had a long, hard struggle to get laws and programs which give them an opportunity to obtain economic and social justice to make it possible for them to conserve the good earth which, next to our people and our tradition of freedom, is our greatest heritage. I am happy in the thought that American farmers have gone part way along the road to economic and social justice, even though they have not reached that goal. In the spirit of progressive action that has animated and now animates these American farm families, all of us...can face with confidence whatever difficulties the future may hold."
57. MUSIC: IN STRONG...FADE OUT.
58. CONNELL: In these few minutes, it has not been possible for us to bring to you all of the many great things Franklin Roosevelt did for agriculture. But let this be said...in conclusion...that today America's farmers have a record of magnificent achievement behind them. They are feeding a country at war, and feeding it well. They are feeding the mightiest Army and Navy in our history. And they are helping to feed a large part of the world.
59. MUSIC: BRIDGE...FADE UNDER SOFTLY.
60. JOHN: In April 1945, in the little White House at Warm Springs, Georgia, the President took pen in hand, and signed legislation extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation of the War Food Administration. A law important to the permanent agricultural security of the country.
61. MUSIC: OUT.
62. JOHN: It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's last official act.
63. MUSIC: IN STRONG FOR FINAL THEME OUT.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold. It was a sharp contrast to the warm blanket I had been sitting under. I looked up at the sky, which was a pale, hazy blue. The air was still, and the silence was broken only by the distant hum of traffic. I took a deep breath, feeling the cool air fill my lungs. The world around me seemed so quiet, yet so full of life. I walked towards the building, my steps echoing on the pavement. The architecture was modern, with clean lines and large windows. I entered the building, and the warmth of the interior greeted me. The receptionist smiled at me, and I felt a sense of relief. I was home. I walked down the hallway, the walls lined with colorful artwork. The scent of fresh paint was in the air, and I felt a sense of accomplishment. I reached my room, and I knew this was where I belonged. I sat on the bed, looking out the window at the city below. The lights were just starting to glow, and the city was waking up. I felt a sense of peace, knowing that I was exactly where I needed to be. I closed my eyes and smiled, feeling the warmth of the sun on my face. I was home.

64. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME is presented by the War Food Administration, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. Written by Christine Kempton, it comes to you from Washington, D. C. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.

This is the National Broadcasting Company.

My dear Mr. [Name] I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours obedient servant,
[Signature]